

policy was still being pursued. Following MacDonald's example, the French Government decided to send Briand and M. Laval to Berlin, where they showed themselves on the balcony of their hotel to a small regimented crowd of minor government officials, who chanted gutturally in a monotonous, spiritless voice: 'Vive la France! Vive la France!'

The U.S.S.R. represented a difficulty. Naturally, a Labour Government was inclined to favour closer relations with the Soviet Government and the granting of trading credits; on the other hand, the memory of the Zinovieff Letter and its disastrous electoral consequences was still fresh, and the *Daily Worker*, which had just begun publication, contained regular fulminations against 'the Social-Fascists and King's toadies of the Labour Government/ who, 'not content with keeping Indian workers rotting in Meerut Prison, are openly shooting down unarmed Negro workers in Nigeria,' and repeatedly expressed its determination to expose 'the reactionary schemes of the trade union bureaucracy and the Labourites and pseudo-lefts.' The Foreign Secretary was bombarded with questions about Anglo-Soviet relations in the House of Commons, and the cautious statements which these questions elicited were impatiently received by many Government supporters.

Admiration for the Soviet regime had greatly increased since the introduction of the Five-Year Plan in 1929, though more among Liberals and the professional classes than among trade unionists, who from the beginning showed themselves to be less easily deluded by Soviet propaganda than university professors, writers and clergymen. Professor Julian Huxley,

for instance,
had no difficulty in believing that * while we were
in Russia a
German town-planning expert was travelling
over the huge
Siberian spaces in a special train with a staff of
assistants, where

this sum being then considered an adequate recompense for
any damage his
reputation for consistency had sustained. Later in the year
the Nazi vote
increased to 6,500,000; Lord Rothermere discovered in
Hitler a champion
of Youth, and Europe became Hitler-conscious.